WRITTEN ANSWERS TO STARRED QUESTIONS

Fictitious Sale of Diesel by Oil Companies

*103. SHRI K. M. SAIFULLAH: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that oil companies were showing fictitious sales to out station customers to sell diesel oil at a cheaper rate; and

(b) if so, the action taken against such beneficiaries?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Some customers who were obtaining petroleum products on concessional sales tax (Central Sales Tax) basis are alleged to have been diverting the same.

Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) has registered a case in the matter on 23rd May, 2000 at Gandhinagar, Gujarat.

Preservation and Development of Tribal Languages and Culture of Orissa

*106. SHRI MAN MOHAN SAMAL: Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that his Ministry propose to take steps for the preservation and development of tribal languages and culture of Orissa; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JUAL ORAM): (a) and (b) There is no specific scheme/proposal of this Ministry envisaging preservation and development of tribal languages and culture of Orissa. According to the mandate, the Ministry of Tribal Affairs is the nodal Ministry for overall policy, planning and coordination of programmes of development of Scheduled Tribes. In regard to sectoral programmes and schemes of tribal communities, policy, monitoring and evaluation etc. as also their coordination will be the responsibility of the concerned Central Ministries/Department.

2. Department of Culture playes a vital role in the preservation, promotion and dissemination of art and culture. Department of Culture administers a scheme whereunder financial assistance is provided to voluntary organizations

and individuals engaged in this preservation and promotion of tribals/folk arts and culture. The Central Institute of Indian Languages under the Ministry of Human Resource Development (Department of Education) has worked on tribal languges in Orissa, namely Bhumij, Ho, Gutob and Kuvi and has produced the following materials:—

(i) Kuvi Grammer

(ii) Kuvi Primer and Copy Book

(iii) Kuvi-Oriya Dictionary

(iv) Kuvi Folk Literature and

(v) Gutob Gramer and Dictionery (under preparation)

3. Under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Research and Training of this ministry, grants are given to the Tribal Research Institutes on 50:50 basis by both State and Centre. One of the activities of the TRIs is preservation of tribal art and culture by depicting tribal artefacts in the museum. Government of Orissa has set up a TRI during 1953-54, which has got a museum with rich tribal artifacts. Government of Orissa has also set up a separate State-level museum in which a separate gallery is atached to it having a good collection of tribal artefacts, especially dresses, ornaments, different agricultural and musical instruments etc., which are being used by various tribal communities in the State.

Production of Tobacco in Andhra Pradesh

*108. SHRI N.R. DASARI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) what was the total production of tobacco in Andhra Pradesh in the years 1999 and 2000 (so far)

(b) what is the prevailing price and how does it compare with the price of last years;

(c) whether STC/Tobacco Board has entered the market and procured tobacco at a reasonable minimum support price; and

(d) if so, what is the quantity procured by these agencies and at what price?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) Production of FCV tobacco in Andhra Pradesh during 1999 and 2000 was 149.60 M.Kgs. and 138.65 M.Kgs. respectively.